

Kobe, July 7th '95

Dear Mr. Scudder:-

The fling at Professor Chamberlain
(the second which Fenollosa has made
through the Atlantic) is unjust and
untrue. By implication it is made
to appear that the book (a very
useful and successful book) is
the outcome of 25 years' work.
It was written in a few months

to supply a want - the want
of a book to guide strangers to
the meanings of common things
in Japan. In the next place
it is not a book by Professor
Chamberlain, properly speaking;
but a compilation by his friends,
he acting chiefly as editor, and
writing only a few of the papers.
To criticize it as it has been
criticized is about as reasonable

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as to criticize the absence of romance
in a catalogue.

The origin of this dislike
which prompts these flings, every
time Fenollosa gets a chance to
make them, I do not know. In
my own case, I must say, that
I distrust the critic for strong
personal reasons, and would request
that no judgement or criticism
of my own work be ever
asked from him. That he is

an authority on Japanese art, - on
of which he made "I have no
is unquestionable.

reason to doubt his knowledge
of that (though I would his
doubt his theosophies and his
esoteric Buddhism). But I
doubt his intellectual sincerity,
his spirit of fairness, and the
sense in him of scruple as to
his use of that knowledge. The
flings at Professor Chamberlain

Personal feeling ought to have nothing
to do with literary criticism; and I think you will perceive

the occasion of that is my own review of a book which
I nearly dislike - because it hurts my own sense of the same
subject.